EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Kin-Wah Tong (Reg. No. 39,400) on 3/20/2008.

Claims 3, 7, 9, 13 and 18 have been amended as follows:

3.   (Currently Amended) A method for assisting capacity planning in a network

having a plurality of links, said method comprising the steps of:

determining spare capacity on at least one link of the network, where said spare

capacity is representative of an existing capacity plus an augmented capacity minus a

bandwidth of all circuits routed on said at least one link of the network;

applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity;

computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning

a circuit on said at least one link of the network, wherein said computing step

comprises:

minimizing a function of $\Sigma\, c_j\, x_j - \Sigma\, s_j\, b_j$, to obtain said overall cost, where s_j

represents said spare capacity for a link j, where b_j represents said benefit weight

for said link j, where x_j represents said augmented capacity for said link j, and

where c_j represents a cost for said link j; and ~~applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity.~~

outputting said overall cost to an output device.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method for assisting capacity planning in a network having a plurality of links, said method comprising the steps of:

determining spare capacity on at least one link of the network, where said spare capacity is representative of an existing capacity plus an augmented capacity minus a bandwidth of all circuits muted on said at least one link of the network;

~~computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning a circuit on said at least one link of the network; and~~

applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity, wherein said benefit weight accounts for a cost for financing said augmented capacity, wherein said benefit weight, b_j, is expressed as:

$$b_j = c_j - \alpha\, p\, n\, c_j = c_j\,(1 - \alpha\, p\, n)$$

where c_j represents a cost for a link j, where α represents an interest rate for capital per unit time, where n represents a number of capacity planning periods, and where p represents a length of said capacity planning period;

computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning a circuit on said at least one link of the network; and

outputting said overall cost to an output device.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for assisting capacity planning in a network

having a plurality of links, said method comprising the steps of:

determining spare capacity on at least one link of the network, where said spare

capacity is representative of an existing capacity plus an augmented capacity minus a

bandwidth of all circuits routed on said at least one link of the network;

~~computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning~~

~~a circuit on said at least one link of the network; and~~

applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity, wherein said benefit weight

accounts for a discount period, wherein said benefit weight, b_j, is expressed as:

$$b_j = c_j - \alpha\, q_j\, c_j = c_j\,(1 - \alpha\, q_j)$$

where c_j represents a cost for a link j, where α represents an interest rate for capital per

unit time, and where q_j represents said discount period;

computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning

a circuit on said at least one link of the network; and

outputting said overall cost to an output device.

13.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for assisting capacity planning in a network

having a plurality of links, comprising:

means for determining spare capacity on at least one link of the network, where

said spare capacity is representative of an existing capacity plus an augmented

capacity minus a bandwidth of all circuits routed on said at least one link of the network;

means for applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity; and

means for computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning a circuit on said at least one link of the network, wherein said computing means minimizes a function of $\Sigma\, c_j\, x_j - \Sigma\, s_j\, b_j$, to obtain said overall cost, where s_j represents said spare capacity for a link j, where b_j represents said benefit weight for said link j, where x_j represents said augmented capacity for said link j, and where c_j represents a cost for said link j; and means for applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising of:

determining spare capacity on at least one link of the network, where said spare capacity is representative of an existing capacity plus an augmented capacity minus a bandwidth of all circuits routed on said at least one link of the network;

applying a benefit weight to said spare capacity; and

computing an overall cost in accordance with said spare capacity for provisioning a circuit on said at least one link of the network, wherein said computing step comprises:

minimizing a function of $\Sigma\, c_j\, x_j - \Sigma\, s_j\, b_j$, to obtain said overall cost, where s_j represents said spare capacity for a link j, where b_j represents said benefit weight for said link j, where x_j represents said augmented capacity for said link j, and

where c_j represents a cost for said link j; and applying a benefit weight to said

spare capacity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Scott M. Sciacca whose telephone number is (571) 270-

1919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30 A.M. - 5:00

P.M. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott M. Sciacca/

Examiner, Art Unit 2146

/JEFF PWU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2146